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# The Signal



Friday, February 11, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

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## News UPDATE

### AER campaign

The annual Army Emergency Relief Campaign is scheduled from March 1 to May 15.

The kickoff training for all unit project officers is 9:30-11 a.m. **Thursday** in the Family Outreach Center, Building 33512 behind Woodworth Library.

The name, rank, telephone number, e-mail address and unit of the individual(s) appointed at brigade and battalion level who will attend the training should be submitted to [brinklev@gordon.army.mil](mailto:brinklev@gordon.army.mil) by **Thursday**. Campaign brochures and allotment forms will be distributed during the kickoff.

### BOSS fashion show

Better Opportunities for Single Service Members presents Fire and ice pre-Valentine's Day fashion show **today** at the Gordon Club South Ballroom.

Tickets cost \$17 for E-4 and below, \$20 for E-5 and above and civilians (price includes fashion show, buffet dinner, live entertainment and the chance to win door prizes.)

Tickets can be purchased from unit BOSS Representatives or by calling Staff Sgt. Latoya Wordly 791-8088.

### Tax center opens

The Fort Gordon Tax Center is now open for tax preparation services. Services are available for all Fort Gordon personnel except Eisenhower Army Medical Center. (EAMC personnel will have access to tax assistance through their unit tax advisor. Call 787-2816.)

The Center is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-noon (appointments only); and 1:30-6 p.m. (walk-ins).

Individuals with complicated tax issues or returns are encouraged to schedule appointments. The Tax Center is located in the same building as the office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Building 29718, Room 118.

For appointments or additional information, call 791-7812.

### Flu shot clarification

Flu shots are given at the Internal Medicine Clinic from 8-10:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, not 8 a.m.-noon daily. For information call M. Vera Larry at 787-8469.

### YCA talent show

The Youth Challenge Academy is having its talent show at 6 p.m. **Feb. 21** at Signal Theatre. Admission is free.

For information, call 791-1297.

### Spec. Armando Monroig

Signal staff

The Signal Center and Directorate of Combat Developments held a LandWarNet war game Jan. 31 to Feb. 4 at the Reserve Center.

The games were used to test and develop the Army's portion of the Global Information Grid, or GIG.

About 300 people – contractors, civilian and military – attended, with 15 general officers participating.

Among those in attendance were Lt. Gen. William Wallace, commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, CIO/G-6, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington; Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general; Maj. Gen. Marilyn Quagliotti, vice director of the Defense Information Systems Agency; and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Various Army branches such as Engineers, Infantry, Armor, Intelligence, Aviation, Air Defense Artillery, and Combat Service Support participated in the games.

Participants were presented a scenario and detailed how they would deploy their forces. The Signal Corps then determined how to provide network support.

The support included secure and non-secure phone and computer lines, teleconferencing, networking, and command and control interconnectivity.

The war game was set in the Caspian Sea area and staged on a huge map. Work groups discussed network requirements and architecture, acquisition strategy, organizational designs, and training and sustainment.

It included factors of a deployment such as planning, training, deployment, stabilization, redeployment and refitting. Hicks said the LandWarNet games were very important.

"This was a chance for the representatives of our sister



Photo by Spec. Armando Monroig

**Maj. Neil Khatod, an action officer at the Directorate of Combat Developments who helped develop the war game scenario with the Combined Arms Center's Analysis Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, opens Friday's session with a brief overview of the map. The LandWarNet war game lasted one week.**

## Foley returns, takes part in war game

**Charmain Z. Brackett**

Contributing writer and

**Spec. Armando Monroig**

Signal staff

As director of command, control, communications and computer systems (J6) for Central Command, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Foley knows firsthand the importance of developing the LandWarNet network.

"There were a number of issues presented by Col. (Jeffrey) Smith that CENTCOM and all combat commands that affects us," said Foley, one of several general officers to attend last week's war game.

"We need to help shape solutions," he said.

Foley's duties involve maintaining, installing, and operating the communications support to headquarters, both in Tampa, Fla., and Iraq, as well as designing and implementing the communications architecture for the theatre at the macro level, network management and control of the theatre net-

works, and playing a role with interoperability with coalition nations.

Foley said Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, invited him to attend the war games because he is a member of the combative command serving in Iraq and Afghanistan who could bring a unique perspective to the game.

Since he is at work in Iraq, Foley was able to provide a unique perspective to the war game.

"The lessons coming out of Iraq – we've got to capture them," he said.

Foley was impressed by the conference.

"It's a great week. You could tell by the magnificent level of participation the issues brought up hit the target," he said.

Foley was able to combine the conference with a time of reunion of friends in the Augusta area.

Foley was the chief of staff at Fort Gordon until June 2003 when he left for CENTCOM.

"I love Fort Gordon. I love Augusta," he said. "It's a great community, and there are great people here."

## 202nd Soldiers recognized for valor, service

**2nd Lt. Christine Moore**

513th Military Intelligence Battalion

Soldiers of the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion were honored Friday for distinguished service while deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 202nd completed their third deployment Jan. 7.

Since the terrorist attacks on September 11th, the 202nd MI Bn. has been the most deployed military intelligence battalion in the Army, with significant elements of the battalion deployed for 30 of the past 40 months.

For heroic or meritorious achievement of service during the battalion's deployment, the Bronze Star Medal was awarded to:

Maj. Wolfgang Biggerstaff  
Maj. Kenneth Harrison  
Maj. Charles Rumrill  
Capt. Louis DelTufo  
Capt. Jayson Campbell  
Capt. Sean Chandler  
Capt. Alexander Corbin  
Capt. David Shapiro  
Capt. Carl Wojtaszek  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Butterbaugh  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Youngers  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cindy Frazier  
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Donna Barnes

1st Sgt. Mumbutuuo Dambuza  
Master Sgt. Roy Beaty  
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Depontee  
Sgt. 1st Class James Smith  
Sgt. 1st Class Gloria Worley  
Staff Sgt. James Richardson  
Staff Sgt. Jason Schexnayder  
Sgt. Shane Stoyer

The Purple Heart was awarded to Sgt. John Gutierrez and Sgt. Elizabeth Lebel. Twelve members of Task Force Deuce received the Purple Heart for injuries received while deployed to Iraq, 10 of which were awarded in theater.

The Defense Meritorious Service Medal was awarded to Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Cope and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Edwards for outstanding performance while assigned to a joint activity.

Distinguishing themselves by outstanding achievement or meritorious service and portrayed acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device was awarded to:  
1st Lt. George Anders  
Staff Sgt. David Colarusso  
Staff Sgt. Alex Erskine  
Staff Sgt. Victor Jabri  
Sgt. Kevin Mattewson  
Cpl. Daniel Isom



Photo by Spec. Jasmen Brown

**Sgt. Elizabeth Lebel, 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, receives the Purple Heart Friday for injuries sustained while deployed to Iraq.**

Spec. Donato Delmastro  
Spec. Christen Smith  
Spec. Bradley Sutton  
Pfc. Logan Davis

The battalion's honors include The Defense of Saudi Arabia Battle Streamer,

the Liberation of Kuwait Battle Streamer, the Meritorious Unit Citation for operations during Operation Desert Storm/ Shield, the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation for 1991, 1992 and 1993, and the Army Superior Unit Award.



# Refund process for TDY simplified

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

Waiting months to receive reimbursement for TDY travel will soon be a thing of the past.

“If on Jan. 31, someone files paperwork, it’s sometimes March or April before he gets his money,” said Margaret Ford, a staff accountant at Fort Gordon who will be the installation’s point of contact for the new Defense Travel System.

Other military branches and other Army bases already use DTS, an automated system that cuts reimbursement time down to about two days. It has been phased in over a few years.

Under the current system, Soldiers and civilians who are required to travel TDY have to make several phone calls to set up flights, car rentals and hotel reservations. Then after the trip, paperwork must be manually submitted.

Ford’s office sends the paperwork using an overnight delivery service to Indianapo-

lis, where it takes up to three or four weeks for reimbursement payments to be processed.

Through DTS, the traveler can access real-time data about air, hotel and rental information which conforms to Department of Defense business rules. Travel requests are sent electronically for approval and obligation of funds, said Ford.

Once travel is complete, travel claims are filed and approved electronically, and the money is paid with electronic transfer within a few days.

Ford said the system is secure, using Department of Defense Public Key Infrastructure certificates.

DTS is web-based and requires no additional software.

Ford said that the system will be implemented around September or October.

“We are thrilled this is coming,” said Ford.

There will be training on the new system and each organization on post will have someone who is DTS knowledgeable.

# Insurance company to refund troops

*Army News Service*

**FORT BENNING, Ga.**—The American Amicable Insurance Company sent letters to more than 900 Soldiers Jan. 14 to inform them they may be eligible for a refund.

American Amicable is refunding \$1.3 million to Soldiers who purchased insurance policies while in training at Fort Benning in 2002. The company was placed off-limits after its agents gave sales pitches to Soldiers in the Basic Combat Training Brigade and other training units under the guise of teaching financial planning and sold insurance policies as investment or retirement programs.

The Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating American Amicable’s actions. The Department of Justice has subpoenaed the company’s records and is working with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. The SEC may have jurisdiction to prosecute the company for securities violations because agents represented the prod-

ucts as investments, officials said.

At the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board’s hearing on American Amicable, the company used Staff Sgt. Daniel Bates as an example of a satisfied customer. When Capt. Julie Heumphreus, SJA, spoke with the 3rd Brigade Soldier, he had a different story.

Bates bought the policy in 1996. He paid \$60 a month and tried to cancel the policy several times without a response from the company. He tried again after American Amicable was placed off-limits, but a company representative tried to convince him to keep it.

“He tried several times to cancel, but they kept giving us the runaround,” said Pamela Bates, his wife. “Through all of this, we’ve learned a lesson. We need to make sure the company is reputable and what we’re buying is what we want.”

Spc. Michael Joswiak purchased a policy in 2002 while at BCTB before going to his unit at Fort Lewis, Wash. He is currently in Iraq, so his mother is handling the refund paperwork.

“He thought he was investing in a retirement policy,” she said. “The policy was useless once he turned 35, and they were charging him \$100 per paycheck. We’re just hoping he’ll get the money back without any difficulties.”

The SJA and the Georgia Insurance Commission are trying to ensure Soldiers don’t have trouble getting the refunds.

“We’re proud the installation is aggressively trying to protect Soldiers,” said Col. Lyle Cayce, SJA. “We will enforce rules and ensure that companies are respecting Soldiers and not taking advantage of them.”

To get the refund, Soldiers must submit the affidavit from American Amicable within 180 days of being notified. Deployed Soldiers have 180 after processing through CONUS.



Courtesy photo

## Anchors aweigh

**The U.S. Navy’s latest submarine, the nuclear-powered attack submarine Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) began its sea trials off the coast of Groton, Conn., on Feb. 3. The Jimmy Carter is the third and final submarine of the Seawolf-class.**



# Fewer hardened vehicles needed in Kuwait

**Master Sgt. Hak Haskins**  
*Army News Service*

**CAMPBUEHRING, Kuwait** – On Feb. 4, the goal of the 276th Maintenance Company was to up-armor 300 vehicles before the close of business.

That single-day total wasn't going to set the bench mark for production, though; it was just a day's work.

But had it not been for an increase in the production of armored Humvees back in the United States, the 276th might have been pushing 400 freshly-hardened vehicles through the door, and the unit did that on more than one day in January.

Last month alone the 276th and its companion company up-armored 6,600 vehicles in a production system that Chief Warrant Officer Randal Joeckel called "an Army factory."

That "factory-type" production in Kuwait since December is also a large part of the reason that expected need for hardened vehicles in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom decreased by nearly 2,000 this month.

**UNITS IMPROVE DESIGN**  
The result of the factory mentality was a system that adhered to a strict production schedule and a daily inventory of armored parts.

It also improved the design of some armor pieces – stronger hinges is one – and some of those changes have allowed the gaining units to install some panels with bolts, not a welding torch.

"We have too many units

coming here," said Staff Sgt. Robert Cruz, the NCOIC of the 276th's production schedule. "I don't have time to weld (all the parts) so we came out with a new model."

Drivers from units who are waiting for up-armor don't have time to stand around and chit-chat about home. They are handed wrenches and put to work. Also, units that need 10 or more vehicles up-graded must provide a working party.

**TORCHES KEPT HOT**  
To remain efficient "we have to keep our welding rods hot and our cutting torches hot," said Maj. John Murillo, the support operations officer of the 158th Combat Support Battalion, the higher command of the maintenance companies.

In less than three months the three maintenance companies involved in up-armor work in-theater – the 175th, the 276th and 699th maintenance companies – used 12 tons of welding rods and 124,000 hardened bolts to fashion \$27 million worth of ballistic steel sheets into doors and panels to help keep Soldiers safer while on convoy missions.

Joeckel, the officer in charge of the 276th's maintenance shop, said his 10-Soldier allied trades shop grew to 20 Soldiers almost immediately and as many as 86 Soldiers were working the mission at its height last month.

The 276th, a Reserve unit from Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, took over its mission from the 699th in January.

"We canvassed the unit for machinists, for wrecker opera-



Photo by Spc. Curt Cashour

**Spc. Christian Mena, a mechanic with the 276th Maintenance Company, uses a plasma cutter to smooth the edges of a Level-3 armor plate at Camp Buehring.**

tors, and we trained them all to be metal workers in a couple of weeks," Joeckel said. "Then came the big push" to get all vehicles hardened. We have never denied a vehicle yet that is headed north. I can't say enough of my Soldiers."

Even with Army machinists and welders working around the clock they couldn't keep up with the demand, and five Kuwaiti machine shops were contracted to help out.

Then came the Navy.  
**NAVY SENDS HULL TECHS**  
A volunteer crew of 15 hull technicians arrived in late January and they were put to work immediately after undergoing Joeckel's cross-training program.

Seaman Apprentice Brett Jones had seen enough of the water and was ready for a change.

Jones is one of those who came to Kuwait from the USS Emory S. Land, a sub tender stationed in Italy, to assist the Army in up-armoring vehicles.

"We've got a lot of work to do out here, more than we thought," Jones said. "We've been working our butts off out here, and we're enjoying it."

When the Navy was asked to provide a crew to help its Army counterparts, it wasn't short on volunteers, said Lt. j.g. Chris O'Leary, the crew's officer in charge. The 15 slots were quickly filled.

"We thought this was a great opportunity and we took it. And, we would take another one," said O'Leary, who spent 11 years as an enlisted machinist's mate before earning his commission.

The crew members are hull technicians and have the same kind of training and skills that Army machinists

and welders possess.

**SAILORS' 'SHIP-SHAPE'**  
"We don't have any Humvees, but we do structural work and the welding is not much different than on ships," O'Leary said. "The 276th has a process and they showed us. We picked it up fast."

The Navy's impact was felt immediately when its senior chief petty officer made a suggestion for modifying one of the steel panels used for larger trucks. It was a design change that found its way into the template and has been used since.

The Navy hull technicians also came with an advantage, said Murillo.

"We're treating them like a brigade welding team even though they will only be here 45 to 60 days," Murillo said. "But there is a little better teamwork because (the Sailors) have no other interest. They are here purely doing machine work."

O'Leary's crew has been split into two functional areas: Installing hinges, doors and panels, and producing corner pieces for 5-ton trucks. It runs a 24-hour operation side-by-side with the Soldiers.

The Sailors are too new in the 276th's maintenance shop to have developed much in the way of social relationships, though one Sailor said he and some Soldiers "throw the (football) around" when they take breaks.

But Petty Officer 2nd Class Roddey Zinda, another hull technician with four years of Naval service behind him, said he volunteered for one reason: "It's a respected job and it's my trade and I know I am good at it. And if I can help ... it just made sense."

(Haskins serves with 377th Theater Support Command Public Affairs.)



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

## Two points

**A member of the Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion unit level basketball team, hangs in mid air as he takes a shot over a defender and member of the Air Force 338th Training Squadron team. B-73 defeated 338th 35-31 in division play Tuesday. B-73rd, with a 15-0 record, and 338th with a 13-2 record, are the top two teams in the Blue Division. Division playoffs are now underway. (For standings, see page 11.)**



# Household goods’ claims trouble free

**Allan Downen**  
*Special to the Signal*

A major part of a military career is moving yourself and your family on a frequent basis. This is generally a trying experience, often made worse by damage or loss to your personal possessions during the move.

The Army assists in replacing or repairing these possessions through the claims system administered by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. The claims office recommends that you be proactive, rather than reactive, to ensure that your losses are recoverable.

**KEEP RECORDS**

There are several things you can do both before and after a move to make sure you are properly paid for any damages.

**SALES RECEIPTS**

It is a good idea to keep receipts for any substantial purchases you make. “Substantial” means anything over \$100. The claims office also recommends getting appraisals for any antique furniture, whether purchased or acquired as a family heirloom.

It is helpful to make an inventory of your high-value personal possessions before you move. The inventory should show the description of property, the date acquired, and the purchase price.

Take the inventory to a notary public and have it notarized so that you can establish its date of preparation. This service is available at Legal Assistance, Staff Judge Advocate, free of charge to members of the military.

If you have a collection of compact discs, DVDs,

phonograph albums, etc. it is necessary to compile a list if a loss occurs and a claim is filed. Additionally it is helpful to photograph and/or video tape all of your possessions prior to a move.

While these steps will require some work on your part, it will allow the claims office to handle your claim in a more expeditious and beneficial manner. Remember to keep these items of substantiation with you rather than ship them with your household goods.

**VERIFY INVENTORY**

When your household goods are picked-up, the mover prepares an inventory. That inventory lists the condition of your goods at the time of pick-up.

It lists pre-existing scratches, nicks and gouges with a letter and number combination. The codes are usually at the top of the inventory.

It is your responsibility to make sure that the carrier’s comments about the state of your possessions are accurate. If you disagree, you have the right to state on the bottom of the inventory what items are incorrectly described and why.

Also it is important to ensure that if an item is shipped it is on the inventory. If it is not, the presumption will be that the item was not a part of your move.

**DD 1840**

When you arrive at your new location, the moving company will give you a DD Form 1840. This form is pink. As you notice damage or missing items during the delivery process, write them on the DD Form 1840.

When the carrier leaves, he will take two copies with him and leave three copies with you.

You have 70 days to finish unpacking and inspecting your

household goods. If during this 70 day period you notice additional missing or damaged items, write them on the reverse side of the DD Form 1840. The reverse side is called DD Form 1840R.

**REPORT DAMAGES**

Within 70 days of your delivery date, turn in the DD Form 1840R at the Claims Office, Building 29718, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Room 104.

Any items that have not been reported missing or damaged within 70 days will not be paid. This happens because the Army can collect the amount paid the Soldier from the moving company for items reported within 70 days.

If you fail to notify the Army so the carrier can be notified, you will not be paid for those items for which the carrier could have been forced to pay the Army.

Submitting the DD Form 1840R to the Claims Office is the only method to properly notify the Army of missing and damaged items.

You do not need to get estimates or have an appointment to turn in the DD Form 1840R. If you turn in one DD Form 1840R and then notice more damages, you can report that damage on a second DD Form 1840R if you are still within 70 days of your delivery date.

**CLAIMS OFFICE**

These rules are sometimes complex and confusing, however, it is your duty to ensure that you understand the rules. If you have questions about claims, call the Fort Gordon Claims Office at 791-6523.

(Downen is chief of the Fort Gordon Claims Division.)

# Operation Trailblazer makes Iraqi roads safer

**Sgt. Matthew Acosta**  
*Special to American Forces Press Service*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq** – In an effort to make Iraqi roads safer for fellow Soldiers, a U.S. Army Reserve company of combat engineers patrol selected roads near Baqubah, searching for “trouble” in a mission called Operation Trailblazer.

Soldiers from Company A, 467th Engineer Battalion, Memphis, Tenn., recently took over operations from the 141st Engineer Battalion, North Dakota National Guard, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

Their mission is to search pre-determined supply routes in the Baqubah area for improvised explosive devices planted by terrorists.

“Our job is to go out and look for trouble in the form of IEDs planted near the sides of roads,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dallas Bryan, combat engineer.

With teams of 18 Soldiers or more, the Trailblazers set out on convoys of several supporting vehicles and one “Buffalo,” scouring the roadside for signs of terrorist activity.

The Buffalo, a ground mine-detection system, uses a hydraulic arm to sift through trash piles or probe areas where the convoy suspects IEDs might be hidden.

“Between a few rotating teams, we search the roads several times a day looking for conspicuous things that might be used to conceal explosives, such as piles of trash, containers or

anything that looks like it’s out of the ordinary, like freshly patched potholes in the road or new road signs close to the road’s edge,” Bryan said.

If an IED is confirmed, the unit marks the site and calls for an explosive ordnance disposal unit to neutralize the device.

Bryan said since the 467th has taken over, it has been credited with finding three explosive devices in its first few days of patrols.

Although the unit travels at a relatively slow rate of speed, the fear of being attacked doesn’t faze the crew much, Bryan said.

“We really can’t drive too fast because by the time we see a device it’ll be too late to stop before it goes off on us or the next vehicle,” he said. “We need to keep a slow steady pace and if we suspect something, we call in the Buffalo. Of course it makes us a good target, but that’s not something we normally think about.”

Normally the Trailblazers cruise the routes looking for explosives but sometimes they will encounter a vehicle they think needs to be searched because of a tip from an Iraqi traffic checkpoint.

Since the operation has started, countless numbers of ordnance and IEDs have been removed from the streets of Iraq, saving potential casualties, Bryan said.

“As long as we have an eventful day finding an IED or two, that’s one less possible casualty,” he said. “And if we don’t have an eventful day, then it’s another quiet day for us, and that’s not a bad thing either.”

(Acosta is assigned to the 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Acosta

**Army Reserve combat engineers with the 467th Engineer Battalion employ the "Buffalo" to search suspicious trash piles thought to contain or hide improvised explosive devices. The vehicle's hydraulic arm is used to probe the suspected sites. If an IED is found, the unit calls the explosive ordnance disposal unit and closes the road until the device is neutralized.**

# 513th honors Black history

**2nd Lt. Christine Moore**  
*513th Military Intelligence Brigade*

The 513th Military Intelligence Brigade equal opportunity office is holding an art show in honor of Black History Month.

“Art of Great Kings and Queens of Africa” is being displayed in the 513th MI Bde. motor pool, located in Building 13700, and outside of the EO office in Building 21718.

One of the paintings de-

picts Hannibal, ruler of Carthage (247-183 B.C.). Hannibal’s tactics have been studied and successfully imitated by generals as recently as World War II.

“This will be very educational for our Soldiers here at 513th,” said Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Smith, 513th MI Bde. EO representative. “Learning about the history of these great kings and queens will inspire young troopers to take pride in their own accomplishments.”



Photo by Marla Greene

## Be mine

Duke is a loveable teddybear who loves to snuggle. He’s an adult German Rottweiler and is available to adopt from the Fort Gordon Vet Clinic located at 500 North Range Rd. Adoption fee is \$60 and includes microchip, vaccinations and spay or neuter. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 787-3315.

# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## Soldier finds State of the Union experience amazing

Staff Sgt. Norbert Lara  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** – It was an amazing experience to actually be in the Capitol during the president’s State of the Union speech, seeing people I normally see on television.

It was surreal seeing the president, the vice president, Hillary Clinton. It was an honor just to be present, not just to see the president, but to meet the people sitting around me. They all had amazing stories to tell.

When we were seated, to my right was a teacher and principal from Texas, to my left was Safia Taleb al-Suhail, leader of the Iraqi Women’s Political Council from Iraq and to the left of Safia was the first lady.

I had the chance to talk to Safia about what she had gone through: losing her father to Saddam’s agents, living outside of Iraq and about returning to Iraq when Saddam fell. She couldn’t thank me

enough, for what we went through to bring her freedom.

I was injured June 18, 2004, in Ba Qubah, Iraq. My unit – 4th Platoon, 293rd MP Co. – was doing a combat patrol. Our platoon is usually part of the 3rd Infantry Division, but we were attached at the time to 1st Infantry Division.

A rocket-propelled grenade was fired from somewhere in front of our vehicle, an up-armored Humvee. It penetrated the firewall of the vehicle and took my arm, and kept going through and took my lieutenant’s arm too. And then it actually exploded.

I woke up in August.

When I woke up I was very depressed – until they took me down to the occupational therapy area and I saw people just like me.

The other thing I want to touch on is the therapists – the physical and occupational therapists at Walter Reed were able to get me from where I could sit up unassisted all the way to where, now, I can run.

I just had surgery again last week, on my shoulder where’s there’s extra bone.

I could have stayed on active duty. It absolutely was an option – the regimental commander and regimental sergeant major gave me full support.

But I decided to work for the Veteran’s Administration. The VA said it would be possible for me to work in California, and that’s where my kids are. I’ve been away from them for 10 years, so it is time for me to be home and close to them and watch them grow up the rest of the way.

Three days ago, a Walter Reed rep asked if I’d be interested in representing the Army at the State of the Union address. I immediately said ‘yes’ and I spent the rest of the time prepping for it, getting my uniform ready, etcetera.

I always wanted to be in the military – from day one. Not to be recognized, but just to serve my country. Being on the news I was able to serve the military, hopefully not for the last time. I was able to tell



White House photo  
**Staff Sgt. Norbert Lara watches President Bush during the State of the Union speech Feb. 2. Next to him is Safia Taleb al-Suhail, leader of the Iraqi Women’s Political Council, and First Lady Laura Bush.**

people about the sacrifices we make, not only our Soldiers, but our families. That was a great opportunity.

## Feedback...

By Youth Challenge Academy Cadet William Tibbs, III

*How do you plan on celebrating Valentine’s Day this year?*



I’ll wake up and wish my husband Happy Valentine, then we’ll exchange gifts, and have a candlelight dinner.  
**Beck Wright**  
Faith Gospel Church



I’ll go out to dinner or stay at home for a little romance. Maybe candlelight dinner with wine.  
**Raquel Barnett**  
Actress/Model/Drama Teacher



I’m going out with my husband for a cajun dinner. I’m getting him a computer and I hope I get some flowers.  
**Pfc. Heather Hrydil**  
Co. B EAMC



I’ll start with breakfast in bed with my wife, give her a present, plus some candy, and then end it with dinner.  
**Laverne Wright**  
Corrections officer at Augusta medical prison



I’m celebrating with my mom because Valentine’s Day is for loved ones, not only the person you are in love with.  
**Pfc. Kara Sherrell**  
Co. C EAMC

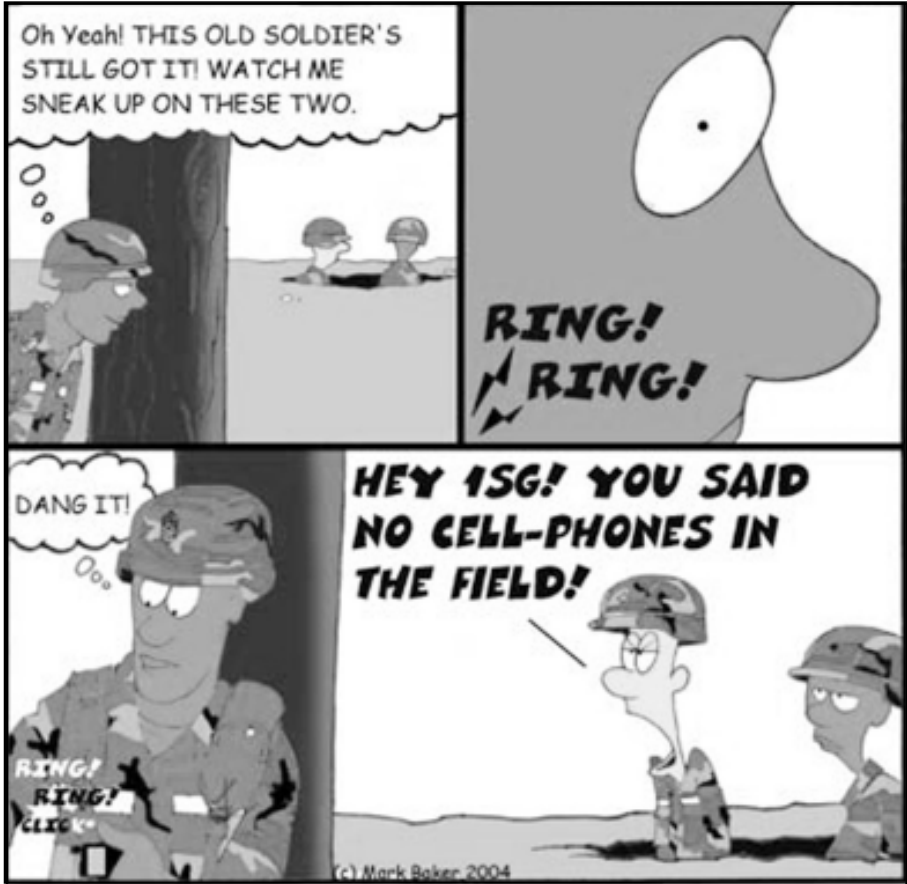


I’m taking my girlfriend to a Japanese steakhouse, then we’ll go home then exchange some gifts.  
**Spc. Michael Cooper**  
Co. A 206 MI Battalion

## Private Murphy

By Mark Baker

*‘The Ring’*



## Why I Serve: ‘To save some Soldiers’ lives



Photo by Jim Garamone  
**Wentworth displays a piece of ballistic glass that withstood enemy fire. Wentworth said he shut down his small business in Texas to “save some Soldiers’ lives” in Iraq, where he installs armor on military vehicles.**

**Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

**CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait** – If the workers at the facility putting armor on wheeled vehicles here need any motivation, all they have to do is look at a scarred piece of ballistic glass they have.

The glass is pockmarked with at least four bullets. “That saved someone’s life,” said Chuck Wentworth, a contractor with Radian, Inc. out of Troy, Mich.

Wentworth, originally from San Antonio, is working to put armor kits on Humvees and trucks.

The shop works 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The workers – part of the Army Materiel Command – put on armor kits built at Army depots in the United States. And they save lives.

Wentworth owned his own small business in Texas. “I shut it down to come over here and save some Soldiers’ lives,” he said. He works with civilian and military specialists who place armor on vehicles ranging from Humvees to Heavy Equipment Transporters – the huge truck that move tanks and armored vehicles.

A tall rangy man, he speaks in a matter-of-fact tone until he talks about the stories he has heard in Iraq. “I went north and just went up to some of the Soldiers who were around a truck we had armored,” he said. “I noticed a cross on the windshield of the truck, and I asked the driver if he was a Christian. He said he was, but that the cross was where a round had hit the windshield. Then he showed me the other crosses he had placed where other rounds had hit.”

The truck had armor surrounding the cab, and there were little crosses all around the cab. “He told me he just kept driving,” Wentworth said.

In another case, an improvised explosive device had blown up next to a Humvee. Officials estimated that it was probably a remotely detonated 120 mm mortar. “There were three Soldiers in the vehicle, and the round pushed in the side,” Wentworth said. “The driver had a broken arm, a broken leg and a broken jaw, but it didn’t penetrate the cab. The ballistic glass was shattered, but didn’t break. He lived, and the other two walked away from it.”

He said that every place he went in Iraq, he heard a story about how the armor had saved someone’s life. He said he came back to work with even more motivation. “It really makes you feel that you are where God wants you to be,” he said

## The Signal

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# Community Events

### Flu shot clarification

Flu shots are given at the Internal Medicine Clinic from 8-10:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, not 8 a.m.-noon daily. For information call M. Vera Larry at 787-8469.

### Attic sale

The Junior League of Augusta Attic Sale is 7 a.m.-2 p.m. **March 5** at the Augusta Exchange Club Fairgrounds. Admission is free.

Sale items include: children's clothing, toys and furniture; sporting goods, lawn and garden supplies, books, furniture, household items, linens and more.

Proceeds benefit Junior League of Augusta projects. For information call 830-7472.

### Retention training

The Department of the Army Mobile Retention Training Team from Fort Jackson, S.C., will conduct retention training for company and battalion level retention noncommissioned officers from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Feb. 28 to March 4** at the Radisson Riverfront conference room. Attendance is mandatory for all company and battalion re-enlistment noncommissioned officers. The post retention office is available for any units that do not have access to a career counselor and can be reached at 791-6008/7387.

### Presidents Day

The boyhood home of Woodrow Wilson offers \$1 off admission from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Feb. 21** in honor of Presidents Day. The home is located at 419 7th St. in Augusta. For information, call 722-9828.

### Job fair

Paine College is hosting a job fair from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Wednesday** at the Randall Carter Gymnasium, located at Druid Park Avenue and Laney Walker Boulevard. For information, call 821-8307.

### Reunion dinner

The VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association 14th annual memorial and reunion dinner is **Feb. 26** at Fort Myers, Va. Call (800)506-2672 for information.

### Police officer jobs

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is seeking separating servicemembers. Starting salary is \$32,214 with a high school diploma or GED; \$33,826 with an associate degree; \$35,517 with a bachelor's degree. College tuition is reimbursed for AA, BA/BS or master's degree. Officials will administer the Police Officers Examination at 9 a.m. **Wednesday** at the ACAP Center. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 791-7333.

### Spring enrollment

Paine College is having registration for the Spring II session from **Feb. 24 to March 3**. The first day of classes is March 15. For information, call 791-7979 or go to the Education Center.

### AER campaign

The annual Army Emergency Relief Campaign is scheduled from March 1 to May 15.

The kickoff training for all unit project officers is 9:30-11 a.m. **Thursday** in the Family Outreach Center, Building 33512 behind Woodworth Library.

The name, rank, telephone number, e-mail address and unit of the individual(s) appointed at brigade and battalion level who will attend the training should be submitted to [brinklev@gordon.army.mil](mailto:brinklev@gordon.army.mil) or 791-3371 by **Thursday**. Campaign brochures and allotment forms will be distributed during the kickoff to brigade and battalion level project officers.

### BOSS fashion show

Better Opportunities for Single Service Members presents Fire and ice pre-Valentine's Day fashion show **today** at the Gordon Club South Ballroom.

Tickets cost \$17 for E-4 and below, \$20 for E-5 and above and civilians (price includes fashion show, buffet dinner, live entertainment and the chance to win door prizes.)

Tickets can be purchased from unit BOSS Representatives or by calling Staff Sgt. Latoya Wordly 791-8088.

### Scholarships available

Scholarships will be awarded again this spring to high school and college students by the Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Applications are accepted from **Tuesday to March 30**.

Scholarships from \$1000-\$2000 are available; scholarships are given by AFCEA to encourage the study of engineering, math and computer sciences.

To be eligible, candidates must be full-time students at accredited institutions, majoring in computer science, engineering or related field, or be an AFCEA member.

Applications and information are available on the AFCEA website at [www.afcea-augusta.org](http://www.afcea-augusta.org).

### Sweetheart ball

The Sergeants Major Association is holding Sweetheart Ball 2005 at 6:30 p.m. **Saturday** at the Gordon Club.

Dress for men is suit, coat and tie, tuxedo, open collar shirt, turtleneck sweater or military dress uniform; dress for women is evening gown, dress, skirt suit, pants suit, or military dress uniform.

Tickets are \$25 for E-7 and above and civilians; \$20 for E-6 and below. For information call Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Washington at 791-0002.

### Operation Ready training

Operation Ready family readiness group training will be held from 9 a.m.-noon **Tuesday** at the Family Outreach Center (behind the library). To sign-up call 791-3579.

### Career expo

Augusta State University will host two career expos during February. The first, an Employer Expo, is 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Thursday**; the second, an Expo for Educators, is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Friday**. Both events will be held at the Christenberry Fieldhouse on Wrightsboro Road and are free and open to the public.

Attendees for both expos are encouraged to dress professionally and bring copies of their resumes. For a current list of employers planning to attend, go to [www.aug.edu/career\\_center](http://www.aug.edu/career_center).

For more information call the ASU Career Center at 737-1604.

### Parenting class

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program is offering a class titled "TransParenting - Children Coping With Divorce" from noon-4 p.m. every first **Wednesday** in Building 33512. For information, call 791-3579.

### Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents "Pippin," a hip, tongue-in-cheek, musical comedy by Stephen Schwartz.

The show opens **Friday** and runs through March 5; dinner begins at 7 p.m., the show at 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$35, \$32 for seniors, retirees, DA civilians and E-8 and above, \$25 for E-7 and below, and \$20 for the show only. For reservations call 793-8552 or go to [www.fortgordon.com](http://www.fortgordon.com).

### Tax center opens

The Fort Gordon Tax Center is now open for tax preparation services. Services are available for all Fort Gordon personnel except Eisenhower Army Medical Center. *(EAMC personnel will have access to tax assistance through their unit tax advisor. Call 787-2816.)*

The Center is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-noon (appointments only); and 1:30-6 p.m. (walk-ins).

Individuals with complicated tax issues or returns are

encouraged to schedule appointments. The Tax Center is located in the same building as the office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Building 29718, Room 118.

For appointments or additional information, call 791-7812.

### Scholarship deadline

The deadline to apply for the commissary's Scholarships for Military Children program is **Wednesday**. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The application can be downloaded at <http://www.militaryscholar.org> and filled out by hand or on the computer. Copies of the application are also available at commissaries worldwide.

### Lifeguard class

The Augusta American Red Cross offers a lifeguard class **Monday** at the Fort Gordon pool; cost is \$115. Participants must be 15 years of age and pass a swim test. For registration and complete schedule information call the Augusta Red Cross office at 724-8481.

### Water safety course

The Augusta American Red Cross is now offering a Water Safety Instructor course beginning at 4 p.m. **Feb. 28** at the Fort Gordon pool.

Participants must be 16 years old, and pass a swimming test; cost is \$80. For information and registration call 724-8481.

### AFCEA luncheon

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry, command sergeant major for the U.S. Army Signal Center and Signal Regiment, will be the featured speaker at an AFCEA Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. **March 3** at the Gordon Club.

His topic is Signal Corps Transformation. Menu choices are schnitzel or a chef salad, \$9 for members and \$10 for non-AFCEA members.

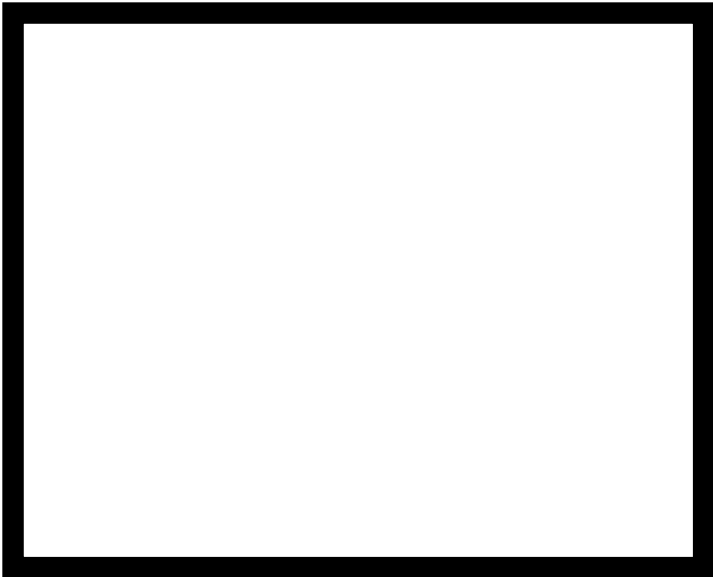
Tickets must be purchased by March 1; call Robbe Ostby at 793-3500 or Sgt. Maj. Toni Allen at 791-4993.

## At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Children 12 and over and adults are \$3.50. Children 6-11 are \$1.75. Children under 5 are free. For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

**Feb. 11-13**  
**Friday - Fat Albert (PG)**  
**Saturday - White Noise (PG-13)**  
**Sunday - Constantine (R)**

*Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.*



# Soldier of the Year reflects on board

**Sgt. Sam Smith**  
*Contributing writer*

The 2004 Soldier of the Year attributes his success to the strong work ethic he learned from his parents.

Spc. Adam Jones, a signal intelligence analyst, has been in the Army less than two years but has gained plenty of board experience in a short time. Besides all the boards he had to attend to win Soldier of the Year, he also competed at the Intelligence and Security Command competition. And, according to Jones, the key to success at boards is one thing.

“Study. I studied a lot...when I was competing for the year boards...when I had a day off from the shop or...when I’m on break I wake up and...about 10 or 11 o’clock,” Jones said. “I grab

my books and stuff and run down to Borders and study until like 1700.”

One of the many awards Jones received for all his hard work is a trip to the nation’s capital. He said it was a really good experience but he has suggestions to improve it.

“We toured Washington, DC. We saw all the monuments...we went to Arlington National Cemetery, saw the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the changing of the guard,” Jones said. “The only thing I hope will be better next time was...the whole walking around in Class As because...those (shoes) are uncomfortable after about two days.”

In his spare time, Jones enjoys playing football and ultimate Frisbee, but his favorite pastime is eating, especially trying foods from

different countries. In fact, he aspires to become a gourmet chef after finishing his bachelor’s degree.

As far as military goals go, Jones says he always wanted to go to Airborne and Air Assault schools.

Jones also says he’s going to win Soldier of the Year again for 2005, but he has some advice for his competition.

“Never assume a question is not going to be asked at a board because I made that mistake once and I could have gotten (the) INSCOM (board),” Jones said. “At lower levels, it’s a lot easier to assume that another Soldier or the rest of your competition isn’t going to know the answer to a certain question, and you might get away with it, but, sooner or later, it’s going to shoot you in the foot.”



Photo by Sgt. Sam Smith

**Spc. Adam Jones, a signal intelligence analyst with the 206th Military Intelligence Battalion, helps a fellow Soldier study for a board at Borders.**

## Numerous events planned

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

From slaves to sharecroppers to tenant farmers and finally paid employees, four generations of African-American families lived and worked at Redcliffe Plantation in Beech Island, S.C.

“We are going to try to cover all four generations,” said Joy Raintree, park manager of the historic home, which is now part of the South Carolina state park system.

The African-American Experience at Redcliffe is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday.

“It’s more than why they were here and who they were,” Raintree said of the presentation. “It’s more about how do we know what we know.”

Artifacts found in the slave quarters as well as census records, photographs and journals will all be a part of the interactive presentation, which begins outside and ends with a tour of the Greek Revival mansion.

Completed in 1859, Redcliffe Plantation was owned by James Henry Hammond and three generations of his family. Hammond was a U.S. Congressman and Senator and a South Carolina governor as well as a cotton planter.

The mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The cost for the program is \$6 for adults and \$4.50 for children ages 6 through 16. Chil-

dren under 6 are free.

For more information, call 827-1473.

**SWEETHEART BIKE TOUR**

Andy Jordan of Andy Jordan’s Bicycle Warehouse will lead a 15-mile sweetheart bicycle tour around Phinizy Swamp Nature Park from 2-4 p.m. Sunday.

Wintering waterfowl and cypress trees are part of the sights that can be expected during the ride around the wetlands. Helmets are required. The cost is \$3 for park members and \$5 for non-members.

Call 828-2109 for more information.

**FAMILY FUN DAY**

The monthly Family Fun Day at the Augusta Museum of History will feature a black history month salute from 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

The current exhibition is “A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie.” As part of the family program, children and adults will make a placemat using grasses in the style Africans used to make sleeping mats.

For more information, call 722-8454.

**JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART**

North Carolina artist Mike Wiley gives children a glimpse into a world where baseball great Jackie Robinson had separate and unequal locker rooms, was barred from whites-only hotels and ate at restaurants with backdoor entrances for black athletes.

The program is appropriate for children 8 and older. Call 724-7501 for information.

# Council makes plans for Retiree Appreciation Day

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

Plans are coming together for the Retiree Appreciation Day set for Oct. 7.

Members of Fort Gordon’s retiree council met Feb. 3 to provide updates on the schedule of events.

Lt. Col. Sherri Baker, Army Community Health Nursing, brought a list of items that Eisenhower Army Medical Center staff are considering making available.

“We are looking at the possibility of running concurrent educational seminars,” she said.

Some suggestions for semi-

nars that might appeal to the retiree population included fitness, heart healthy living, living with diabetes, bladder control, self-defense and combating identity theft.

“We were thinking about three different sessions at once, maybe one in the morning and one in the afternoon,” she said.

She said some of the classes might be able to be combined.

Other services that might be provided at the event include chair massages, bone density screenings and body fat analysis.

Baker also suggested that all

of the health and wellness activities be held in one location.

At the last Retiree Appreciation Day, they were scattered at three different locations on post.

Council members agreed with that suggestion.

In other business, Col. Karen Adams, garrison commander, presented council member and volunteer Raymond Sumner, with the commander’s award for public service for his 23 years of service.

“It’s been a pleasure for me to be here all these years,” he said.

# Four chaplains remembered

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

A photograph, an empty chair and a rose were placed in Bicentennial Chapel for four courageous men.

The four, chaplains George Fox, Alexander Goode, Clark Poling and John Washington, fulfilled the Army values to the utmost on Feb. 3, 1943.

They were “everything that Army leadership holds dear,” said chaplain Terry Jarvis at the Four Chaplains Memorial Service on Feb. 3, 2005.

The four chaplains were aboard the USAT Dorchester. Once a luxury liner, the ship became an Army transport vessel during World War II.

The ship was headed to Greenland and was only about 150 miles away when a torpedo hit it at 12:55 a.m. Feb. 3, 1943.

During the ensuing panic, the four chaplains were there to try to bring calm. They handed out the life jackets. When the life jacket supply ran out, they removed their own and gave them to the Soldiers. There were more than 900 men on the ship; only 230 survived.

Only one of the four chaplains had much military experience;

three of them were in their early 30s and had only been in the military a short time.

They had yet to be tested, said Jarvis.

“A man doesn’t know who he is until he’s been under fire,” he said.

While they may have been inexperienced, they were ready for the test.

“When the test came, they passed. They passed with flying colors,” he said.

According to a fact sheet handed out prior to the ceremony, witnesses said that the four chaplains had linked arms and prayed together as the ship sunk.

They were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart. They also received a Special Medal for Heroism, never awarded before or since. The medal was authorized by Congress. Congress had wanted to give them the Medal of Honor; however, requirements for that were that heroism was performed under fire.

A chapel honoring the four men is in Valley Forge, Pa., and a stained glass window of the four chaplains is on the third floor of the Pentagon.



Photo by Charmain Brackett

**Candles were lit in memory of the four chaplains who gave up their life vests to other servicemen and perished with the USAT Dorchester Feb. 3, 1943. On Feb. 3, a ceremony was held to honor the “Four Chaplains” at Bicentennial Chapel.**

# Army helping build new border posts

**Nicole Dalrymple**  
*Army News Service*

**MOSUL, Iraq** – An estimated \$25 million is being spent to construct 100 new border forts along the northern borders of Iraq, as well as rehabilitate and enhance numerous points of entry.

In several northern provinces, 34 forts are currently under construction and 66 others are planned to start in the coming months.

“The Iraqi Interim Government understands the importance of having secure borders,” said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, spokesman for Task Force Olympia. TF Olympia serves as the command and control element for coalition forces in the two northern governorates of Iraq—Ninewa and Dahok. “They are demonstrating commitment and resolve to secure the borders for the Iraqi people.”

Controlling the borders is a primary tenet of Iraq’s internal security plan, explained Carol Hewes, program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Northern District’s Security and Justice Sector. “The border forts provide a base of operation for the border police, who act as the eyes in remote areas away from the central points of entry. The points of entry are similar to our border crossings in the States. They provide a staging area for all pedestrian and vehicular traffic entering and exiting Iraq.”

The 133 Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) is overseeing the renovations of 27 existing forts and the construction of 15 new ones, while the Corps is providing construction management and quality control for the 100 new forts and the points of entry. Work is ongoing in four northern provinces.

“Renovations will take approximately two to three months and new forts will take about six,” explained Capt. Dave

Bouffard, battalion civil engineer for the 133 ECB(H). “The forts are being constructed using a concrete masonry process that maximizes the use of locally available materials. All construction is being done by local Iraqis. No Coalition Forces are participating in the actual construction.”

“The forts function as the Iraqi border patrol’s command outpost from which they run 24-7 operations,” explained Bouffard. “All forts include living quarters and office space, as well as independent life support sources for water, fuel, power generation and sewer.”

More than \$2 million is being spent to upgrade and renovate existing border points of entry. The upgrades include vehicle staging and inspection areas, seizure and storage areas, a banking facility for currency exchange, guard posts, a customs facility and an immigration facility.

“We know how important it is to prevent foreigners from coming into Iraq,” said Wilson Myers, Project and Contracting Office representative for Iraq’s north-

ern governorates – Dahok, Irbil and Ninewa. PCO is the contracting agency for distribution of the construction funds. “We are focused on properly equipping and manning the force in order to protect freedom for a sovereign Iraq.”

The new forts will provide additional capabilities and staging areas for the Iraqi security forces, Hewes said. While most Iraqis will never see a fort, due to its remote location, there are direct benefits to the Iraqi people, according to Hewes.

“You hear about the insurgents in Mosul and around the country,” she said. “I think if we can continue to take steps to keep them out of Iraq that has a significant impact on people’s lives and their security. The border forts are the front line defense for Iraq. The border police are cutting down on the number of insurgents and weapons entering the country and that’s significant.”

*(Dalrymple is assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Northern District.)*



Courtesy photo

**This border checkpoint being renovated in northern Iraq will soon have a vehicle staging and inspection area, seizure and storage area, banking facility for currency exchange, a customs facility and an immigration facility.**

# Guard team helps repair Kabul road

**Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis**  
*Army News Service*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – National Guard Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Embedded Training Team have accomplished several humanitarian aid projects during their tour in Afghanistan.

They have helped their Afghan National Army counterparts dig wells, distribute school supplies, deliver medical supplies to the Kabul’s Children Hospital and distribute supplies to orphanages. They have even taken on road repairs in local districts where American and Afghan soldiers are providing peace and security for the Afghan nation.

Roads in Afghanistan are often in disrepair. While a Chinese construction contractor is laying new asphalt on Jalalabad Road and has partially completed work up to Sarowbi (three hours east of Kabul), the company isn’t scheduled to arrive in Kabul until this summer.

The portion of Jalalabad Road that runs between Camp Blackhorse and Camp Phoenix and in front of the Kabul Military Training Center (home of

Afghan National Army basic training) is an automobile’s worst nightmare.

“I remember traveling from Camp Phoenix back to Camp Blackhorse one night when we hit that section of road and it was like a black hole swallowed our entire truck,” said Lt. Col. Arnie Marquart, commander of the 3rd Brigade Training Team.

The condition of the road had been a topic of discussion between Marquart and Capt. Daniel Drobný, 3rd Embedded Training Team’s Facilities Engineer, for some time.

Marquart told Drobný the situation was critical and to immediately take action.

The ETT coordinated with Gen. Zamari, commander of the Afghan National Army 3rd Brigade, to obtain some road construction material.

Since the road the brigade wanted to repair was a Kabul municipal road, said Drobný, “I wanted to make sure that we cleared our request with the proper government officials. Working with our ANA counterpart Afghan Army Maj. Mohebullah-Damish yar, assistant S-3 of 3rd Brigade, we met with Dr. Noorzad,

Mayor of Kabul. We discussed our proposal to do a temporary repair of that section of Jalalabad Road until the resurfacing of the road could be completed later this summer.”

Noorzad accepted the offer and thanked the soldiers for all the help they had given toward the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The ETT then conducted a site survey to insure all materials and equipment needed would be available.

The “Grumpy Old Men Road Crew” – consisting of Master Sgt. Larry Hoffman and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Blum of the Montana Army National Guard, and Sgt. 1st Class Leo Finn of the Alabama Army National Guard, along with 30 ANA soldiers from 1st Kandak (Battalion) – got to work.

Nicknamed by Marquart, the crew consists of the three senior non-commissioned officers of the 3rd Brigade ETT. As the story goes, when the group traveled with Marquart on trips, they required frequent rest stops and photo opportunities, reminding Marquart of a group of grumpy old men.

The term stuck and became part of unit legend. The trio is often called upon to complete difficult projects that require just enough grumpiness to get the job done.

When there was a break in the weather the Road Crew went to work.

ANA soldiers created a diversion road to redirect traffic away from the work site and provide security while the Road Crew directed the repair of the road. The Road Crew prepped the surface with several loads of fill material and graded the surface. Between deliveries of fill material, they used a roller to compact the surface.

Once the gravel was delivered and spread, a vibrating roller was used to compact the gravel into the fill material to establish a firm roadway.

The coordination and planning between Camp Blackhorse, the Afghan National Army, the local government and the Kabul Military Training Center, enabled the crew to complete the project in one day, with minimum disruption to traffic flow.

*(Davis serves with the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan.)*

# Self care mandate

**Chap. (Capt.) Michael Zell**  
*551st Signal Battalion*

Judging by the hacking and coughing heard around the post, as well as the tired looks of weary Soldiers, I would say the we are in the middle of the flu season.

The weather continues to shift from, “I’m glad I live in the South” to “Should I be building a boat?” It is no surprise that when bodies start to break down, our hearts and minds are close behind.

Every week I am given the privilege of participating in at least one A I T graduation. At the end of the ceremony the Soldiers recite the Soldiers Creed. As most of you know, the Soldiers Creed clearly represents the Army Values and Warrior Ethos. “I am an American Soldier, I am a Warrior and a member of a team.”

My favorite paragraphs reads, “I will always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.”

Believe it or not, this is a self-care mandate, and it reminds me that if we do not properly care for our selves; our body, our mind and our spirit, then we are most likely headed for a breakdown.

So what does it mean to “maintain myself”? More than physical training and academic pursuits, I believe that we must take time to

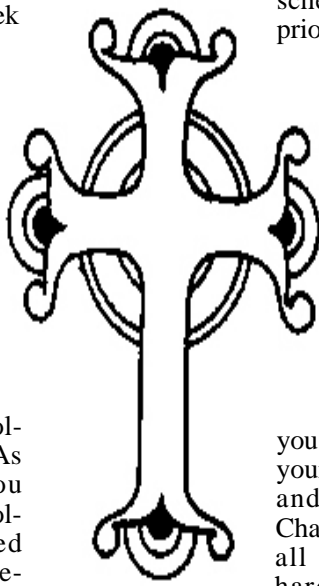
refresh our spirit.

In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus states, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Rest for my soul? That sound great, and even like good self care, but how is it done?

I believe the process is actually quite simple.

Make the time to lay your life, your schedule, and your priorities before the



Lord. Acknowledge that you are in need of the rest and refreshing that can only be found in God. Let Him teach

you how to prioritize your life, your work and your time. Chances are we are all running much harder than God would intend for us and taking too little time for things like meditation, scripture reading, fellowship and prayer.

Perhaps the Lord has begun speaking to you in the few moments it has taken to read this article. Perhaps He is reminding you that your priorities are not His priorities, and that it is time to step back and re-assess. Take care of yourself, and allow the refreshing presence of God to minister to your spirit as your serve our great nation.

As Proverbs 18:14 says, “A man’s spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?”



# Sports & Leisure

## Sports UPDATE

### Women's soccer

Applications for the 2005 All Army Women's Soccer program are due to All Army Sports **March 1**.

Application information is available at **www.armymwr.com**.

Selection criteria consists of the following:

Strength of the submitting player's resume', prior selection to All Army teams, prior selection to Armed Forces teams, highest level of competition (high school, JUCO, D1, D2, D3, club level, or ODP) level play, exceptional awards, prior coaches' recommendations and current All Army team's coaches' recommendations in collaboration with the All Army Sports specialist selecting official.

### Battalion level basketball

Battalions desiring to enter a team must submit their Memorandum of Intent no later than **Feb. 23** to the Sports Office.

There will be a designated representative organization meeting in the Sports and Fitness Conference Room (Bldg. 29719, Bay 4) at 1 p.m. **March 1**.

For more information, contact Al Robinson at **robinsoa@gordon.army.mil** or call 791-1142.

### Graybeard basketball

The Graybeard Basketball Program, for players 34 and older, will be held during March and April.

Teams will be composed of active, retired military personnel, their family members and Fort Gordon civilian employees. Registration cut-off is **Feb. 23**.

An organization meeting will be held **Feb. 28** and March 1 at 6 p.m. at the Sports and Fitness Office, Bldg. 29719, Bay 4. For more information, call 791-1142.

### 2005 All Army men's basketball calendar

Application entry suspense is **April 20**. Early applications accepted.

Trial Camp to be held **June 21 to July 16** at Fort Carson, Colo.

Armed Forces Championship to be held **July 17 to 25** at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

CISM Championship to be held **Aug. 10 to 20** in Russia.

SHAPE Tournament to be held **Nov. 27 to Dec. 5** in Belgium.

For information, contact Al Robinson at the Sports Office at 791-1142.

### Volleyball players wanted

The All Army Volleyball team is looking for a few good men and women.

They currently do not have enough players to make a full team.

Any star volleyball players interested and available for trying out for the All- Army team, and those interested in coaching, should submit an applications as soon as possible.

For information, contact Al Robinson at the Sports Office at 791-1142.

# Fort Gordon Soldier runs his way onto All Army team



**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

A Fort Gordon Soldier has been selected to the 2005 All-Army Cross Country Team, that will compete in the Armed Forces Cross Country Championship at Vancouver, Wash., Feb. 12 and 13.

That Signal Soldier is Capt. Ryan Kirkpatrick, Company C, 442nd Signal Battalion.

Kirkpatrick was with the Army World Class Athlete Program in Boulder, Colo., for the past three years competing in track and field at the last Olympic Trials along with numerous other events over the past three years.

The Hendersonville, N.C., native earned his commission in 2000.

Although he said he originally joined the Army to attend West Point he also joined to take advantage of the opportunities the Army has to offer.

For the time being, Kirkpatrick doesn't know if he'll make a career of the Army but doesn't rule it out as an option.

"At this point I do not know what my career will hold for me," he said.

"I would like to compete for the Army in the World Class Athlete Program for as long as possible and then see where I can go in the Army from there."

Kirkpatrick competed in cross-country for four years in high school and

college.

After completing the officer basic course he was assigned to the Army World Class Athlete Program where he competed in the last two USA cross-country championships and was on the All-Army team both years.

The last two years Kirkpatrick finished second in the short course event for the All-Armed Forces Championships and last year won the long course event for the Armed Forces event.

He represented the U.S. at the CISM World Military Cross-Country Championships in France in 2003 and the World Military Games in Italy in 2003 as well.

"It is always an honor to represent the Army in athletic competitions, especially against the other services," said Kirkpatrick.

Competing in cross-country allows him to be a better Soldier and person, he said.

"It always helps to be physically fit in the Army. More importantly, distance running is a sport based on your discipline to train," Kirkpatrick said.

"No one truly likes to run, but the ability to see the results of your work makes the training worth it," he added.

His next step will be to return to the World Class Athlete Program and to begin training full time to prepare for the 2008 Olympics.

**Capt. Ryan Kirkpatrick, Company C, 442nd Signal Battalion, was selected to the 2005 All-Army Cross Country Team, that will compete in the Armed Forces Cross Country Championship at Vancouver, Wash., Saturday and Sunday.**

Courtesy photo

## Fort Gordon unit level basketball standings

*As of Feb. 4*

Team	Win	Loss			
<i>Division: BLUE</i>			E-369	5	5
			C-551	4	6
			C-73	4	6
B-73	14	0	B-551	3	7
338TRS	13	1			
D-447	14	3	<i>Division: RED</i>		
B-447	8	7	HHC-206	11	3
C-73	8	7	A-369	9	4
D-551	7	9	A-442	8	4
C-551	5	9	EAMC	8	4
E-369	5	13	HHC-513	8	4
B-551	4	11	BNCOC	7	6
A-73	0	18	A-447	8	7
<i>Division: GREEN</i>			ANCOC	6	8
			HHD-116	3	10
518	13	1	35MP	0	18
B-442	13	1			
HHC-15	11	3	<i>Division: WOMEN</i>		
USAG	10	4	EAMC	20	0
NSGA	10	5	442	16	4
31IS	6	8	C-73	16	4
C-63	6	12	NSGA	15	5
C-442	3	10	BNCOC	12	8
B-63	3	15	E-369	10	10
235	1	17	D-447	9	11
<i>Division: MORNING</i>			B-551	6	14
			31IS	2	18
B-447	7	3	C-369	2	18
D-447	6	3	D-551	2	18



Photos by Spc. Armando Monroig

## Shoot 'em out...

That's what area soccer players did at the 20th Annual Spring Soccer Shootout held at Barton Field Saturday and Sunday. More than 100 teams participated in the event hosted by the Augusta Arsenal Soccer Club that featured youth club teams from all over Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. More than 10,000 people attended the event. About 200 games were played in under-10 and under-18 age groups with championship games held for each age group Sunday.





# Army, Navy team up for training in Japan

**Pfc. Matthis Chiroux**  
*Army News Service*

**CAMP ZAMA, Japan** – Army pilots in Japan landed their Black Hawk helicopters, packed full of Soldiers and equipment, on the deck of the USS Cowpens Jan. 19.

UH-60 pilots from the 78th Aviation Battalion in Japan battled unpredictable cross-winds in the open ocean to make these landings on the speeding cruiser underway from Yokosuka Naval Base. The deck landing qualification training was conducted prior to the exercise Yama Sakura which took place in Japan from Jan. 25 to 31.

“The purpose of this training was to increase the operational flexibility of U.S. Army Japan,” said Capt. Daniel Rice, the 78th Avn. Bn. S-3. “This training is not common to Army aviation, but it is necessary, especially while stationed on an island in the Pacific area of operations.”

After months of preparation and coordination with the Cowpens and Atsugi Naval Air Facility’s Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 51, the first Black Hawk from Camp Zama



Photos by Pfc. Matthis Chiroux

**Capt. Daniel Rice, the 78th Aviation Battalion S-3, watches as a pilot from his unit attempts to land on the tiny landing deck of the USS Cowpens, a cruiser from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, during deck landing qualification training Jan. 19.**

departed Japan’s rocky shores for the Cowpens in the early morning hours of Jan. 19.

Once the aircraft’s pilot, Chief Warrant Officer In Kim, had successfully qualified by conducting five consecutive successful landings on the landing pad of the Cowpens, he returned to Camp Zama to train the remaining pilots. Kim explained how difficult it was to land in a small space on a ship

surrounded by water.

“The landing area is very limited, especially when our UH-60 tail wheel is positioned differently than the Navy SH-60s. We only have less than seven feet of room on the back side of the deck, and the front of the deck has a wall approximately 12 feet from the rotor system.”

The training was completed, though, without any injuries or accidents. But the crew chiefs from the 78th Avn. Bn. participating in the training never had a doubt in their minds about the skill of their pilots.

“That’s not a problem in this unit,” said Sgt. Kyle Clutter, a crew chief who participated in the training. “I trust my life with every pilot in my unit. They are some of the most professional people I have ever known and crewed for.”

After the training was finished, the pilots returned to Camp Zama. Leaders of the 78th Avn. Bn. said they plan to keep their pilots current on this qualification.

*(Chiroux is a staff writer for the Torii newspaper at Camp Zama, Japan.)*



**An air traffic control Sailor from the USS Cowpens, a cruiser from Yokosuka Navy Base, waves a pilot with the 78th Aviation Battalion, in to a safe landing.**



# Spectrum



Photos by Spc. Armando Monroig

Signal general officers, who traveled from around the world, participate in the second LandWarNet war game, held at Fort Gordon's Army Reserve Center Jan. 31 to Feb. 4.

## War game 'plays' big part in developing LandWarNet

### LandWarNet

*Continued from page 1*

She said that while there are many aspects of the network that the Signal Regiment needs to work out, this isn't just the Signal Regiment's challenge.

"It really has to span across all the branches and functions in the Army," said Quagliotti. "To this date, we really haven't brought that together as well as they did here. They did an excellent job."

She stressed how vital LandWarNet is.

"If we are going to do Net-Centric Operations we have to have a network that underpins the type of future operations that we want to be able to conduct," Quagliotti said.

She added that right now the network is not being thought of as part of the fight, but what needs to be done is learn how to employ the network so it supports what the commander wants to do just like field artillery, engineers and intelligence.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry, U.S. Army Signal Center and post command sergeant major, said the LandWarNet games are going to tell noncommissioned officers and enlisted personnel on Fort Gordon how to change the way they train.

"It's going to further tell us how we need to change our programs of instruction to better suit what it is we are going to do in the future," said Terry.

In the Army overall, he said it will give Soldiers clarity.

"There have been a lot of questions in recent times about what LandWarNet means and how it is going to affect the fight on the future battlefield," said Terry.

He said the games were phenomenal and that he has received nothing but positive feedback and support from members of the other proponents.

"It's was important that Signaleers came together, but it was even more important that our fellow proponents came and talked about how they plan to utilize the LandWarNet and their specific needs so that everyone is working off the same sheet of music," added Terry.

Col. Jim Costigan, director

of Combat Developments, said getting everyone to participate in the LandWarNet games was an arduous task but vital to the game's success.

Costigan and Col. Jeffrey Smith, U.S. Army Signal Center and post deputy commander, were largely responsible for organizing the LandWarNet game.

"You've got to do that because the network has so many people that need to gain access and usefulness from it," said Costigan. "It's like the old 'supply and demand' – if you don't capture all the requirements and meet them somebody will be left out."

He said that some communities have greater requirements but they all have an impact on each other.

"We identified a lot of gaps that we've seen out there for years," added Costigan. "We want to try to find a way to resource the network and that's not going to be easy."



Lt. Gen. William Wallace, commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, discuss the war game Feb. 2 at the Reserve Center.



(Above) Knowledge centers represented on the war game map. (Below) Maj. Gen. Marilyn Quagliotti, vice director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, and Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, CIO/G-6, Office of the Secretary of the Army, study slides during a briefing.



While standing on the developing LandWarNet scenario map, Col. Jeffrey Smith, U.S. Army Signal Center and post deputy commander, briefs participants prior to the start of the war game.